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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 15 | Humidity 15% Clear sky Sensex 83,817 | Nifty 25,776 | Gold 1,49,000 | Silver 2,72,200 | Dollar 90.46 | Euro 106.48 | GBP 123.45

GUARD YOUR GOLD

Jewellery shops given 10-day deadline to set up functional alarms, 360° CCTV surveillance covering every corner of the store and adjoining roads

PAGE 3

HOT WHEELS

4.9 lakh private cars and two-wheelers were added to the city's roads between April and December 2025 as number of vehicles in city about to touch 1.09 crore

PAGE 5

According to BDA, Bellandur Lake rejuvenation work is progressing well, but citizens say without transparency in breakdown of ongoing work, percentages mean nothing. BM takes a look at ground reality to understand where we stand

JOB WELL DONE? SO THEY TELL US

Official figures: 66% of desilting of tank bed and feeder channel done; 56% of wetland construction completed

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PAGE 4: DEATH OF A LAKE

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that a considerable portion of Bellandur Lake rejuvenation work, including wetland development, has been completed.

According to the BDA, while dewatering is almost complete (96.45%), 66% of the desilting of the tank bed and feeder channel has been completed. Moreover, 56% of the work related to wetland construction at the main inlet has been completed.

However, locals say it is difficult to reconcile with the progress shown by BDA in its report when progress on the ground is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"I visited the lake in November, and while considerable desilting of the water body and wetland area has taken place, there is not much progress concerning wetland development. As per the design that we provided, BDA is supposed to plant a variety of nutrient-removing plants in the one-acre area

—Dr TV Ramachandra, CES at IISc

Deadly drink

Make age verification mandatory at pubs and bars, say child rights activists as city reels from child's death after consumption of alcohol

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Shocked by the death of a 15-year-old boy who allegedly jumped from the 7th floor of an apartment in an inebriated condition, child rights activists and social activists have demanded the government take immediate measures to prevent such incidents in the future. The incident that took place on January 31 has prompted the activists to demand that the government take measures to prevent adolescents from entering pubs and bars.

Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, has written a letter to the Home Minister stating that the death of a 15-year-old boy due to alcohol consumption in a Bengaluru pub needs strict action against the violation of law allowing minors to consume alcohol.

Rao said that, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a child is defined as any person below the age of 18 years and India has committed itself to protecting children's rights to survival, protection, development, and participation, and has ratified the UNCRC to demonstrate this commitment. "However, the recent tragic death clearly highlights a grave violation of children's rights. This incident starkly exposes the lack of child safety measures, poor enforcement of the law," Rao said.

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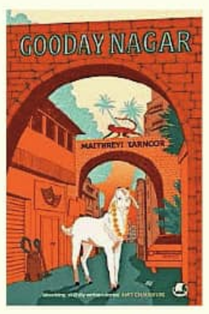
THINGS TO DO

01 Literary corner



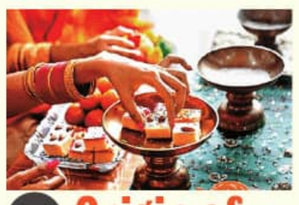
Acclaimed writer and translator Maithreyi Karnoor will be in conversation with Aravind Jayan, for the launch of 'Gooday Nagar', a dazzling collection that reimagines everyday Indian life through humour, strangeness, and quiet philosophical wit. **Where: Beku, JP Nagar; When: February 15, 12 pm**

02 Cultural cadence

Vandana Subash, a Bharatanatyam performing artiste from Pune and a disciple of Divya Ravi, is presenting a Bharatanatyam performance, with a live ensemble of musicians. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi; When: February 6, 6 pm**

03 Revel in music

Saxophonist and composer Tineke Postma will be bringing her quartet to Bengaluru with music from her latest album VOYA, a contemporary jazz project shaped by themes of journey, movement, and transformation. **Where: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield; When: Feb 6 and 7, 9.30 pm**



04 Origin of offerings

Atta Galatta is bringing 'Divine Delicacies', a unique experience where samples of prasadams from various temples will be served along with stories of places of worship and the perceived food preferences of the divine. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 8, 12.30 pm**

05 Verses of the heart

Shaam-e-Baazgasht offers an intimate, cosy, and immersive poetry experience drawn from a bilingual Hindi–English collection that journeys through unrequited love, longing, heartbreak, queerness, healing, and the quiet courage of letting go. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 8, 5.30 pm**

Crafting bonds, one stitch at a time

Art-and-craft community grows beyond hobby circle into social space where participants work on projects of their choice, share ideas, collaborate and form unique friendships

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Crafty is a community that began as a small crochet circle and gradually grew into art-and-craft meetups, where participants gather every Sunday at Cubbon Park

On Sunday mornings at Cubbon Park, as joggers pass by and trees provide shade, a small but colourful group quietly gathers. People sit on mats, yarn spilling out of tote bags, crochet hooks clicking rhythmically, while others sketch, embroider or knit. This is Crafty, a community that began as a small crochet circle and has since grown into one of Bengaluru's most welcoming art-and-craft meetups.

Founded in February 2024 by Rahul Jadhav, Crafty traces its origins to something deeply personal and informal. "I have been teaching friends how to crochet for a few years and usually we'd do it at my home, where a few of us would meet and crochet together and eventually more friends were interested. As interest grew, we decided to move outdoors. That's when we thought of doing the same thing but at Cubbon Park as a crochet picnic," said Jadhav.

The choice of location was intentional. "The best part about Cubbon Park is that it's free to enter and it's such a peaceful place filled with trees and it's a wonderful experience sitting there and working on your hobbies," he added. Photos and videos from the early meetups, shared on Instagram, drew more people in, prompting Jadhav to make it a weekly affair.

What sets Crafty apart is its fluid, no-pressure format. Jadhav explained that the idea behind Crafty is to host an art-and-craft picnic where participants bring their own supplies, work on projects of their choice, and connect with others to share ideas, collaborate, or learn something new. "Limiting the group to just crochet felt restrictive. The goal is to explore one's creative side and have fun with like-minded people while having snacks and even playing with pets," he said.

Goal of meetup is to explore one's creative side and have fun with like-minded people while working together and learning something new, says founder of Crafty

Though crochet remains central, the meetups soon expanded to include embroidery, knitting, punch needle and other crafts. Many participants are beginners, and a large number join the meetups to learn the basics of crochet. Experienced members also step in to guide and support newcomers. The response, he says, has been overwhelmingly organic. "There have been so many cases where a person has attended the meetup for the first time and next weekend brought their friends with them," he said. He said that over time, Crafty has grown beyond a hobby circle into a social space, where members celebrate birthdays, form friendships, and even collaborate professionally.

The sense of community extended beyond the park in November 2025, when Crafty hosted a collective stall at the Festival of Handmade in Bengaluru. "Our group members displayed their handcrafted products at the Crafty stall and we had a great response and sold a lot of products made by our community," said Jadhav. Crafty has also challenged old stereotypes around crafts. "Crochet would be seen as a girly thing in the past but it definitely doesn't feel like that now," Jadhav noted, pointing out that many men regularly attend the meetups. He recalled Antoine, a visitor from France, who learned crochet at Crafty and went on to make a passport cover and a laptop sleeve within weeks.

Now expanding beyond Bengaluru, Crafty recently launched a Mumbai chapter, with plans to take the model to more cities. Even when Rahul is travelling, the meetups continue. "I made sure that the date, time and location is always the same. So even if I'm not in Bengaluru, our group members still meet every Sunday," he added.

Households feel the pinch of Post-Budget price hikes

Even as the Budget dust is yet to settle, the common man is already feeling the heat of rising prices. Household budgets have come under pressure with sharp increases in the cost of essential grocery items, adding to the burden of already high expenses on milk, curd, electricity, petrol, diesel, bus and Metro fares, and school fees. Prices of rice and pulses have risen steeply, dealing another blow to families struggling to cope with the high cost of living.

Traders said that the price surge is most visible at the wholesale level, with traders reporting significant hikes in daily use commodities such as rice, tur dal and dry chillies. Rice prices have increased by up to Rs 20 per kg in wholesale markets, while basmati rice has seen a sharper rise of Rs 25 to Rs 30 per kg. Retail prices are expected to be around 20 per cent higher than wholesale rates. Dry chillies have recorded a hike of up to Rs 150 per kg, tur dal by Rs 15 to Rs 20 per kg, groundnuts by up to Rs 20 per kg, urad dal by up to Rs 15 per kg and chana dal by up to Rs 10 per kg, further tightening household budgets across the city. **— BMB**

Unified Fare Regulatory Authority to fix auto, cab and transport tariffs

The Transport Department is preparing to set up a Fare Regulatory Authority to fix fares for auto rickshaws, cabs, stage carriage and goods transport vehicles across Karnataka. Once implemented, the move will significantly curtail the powers of district authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and Regional Transport Officer, and replace them with a uniform state level mechanism. At present, fare fixation powers rest with the State Transport Authority and district level Regional Transport Authorities, where the DC acts as chairperson, the RTO as secretary and the SP as a member. However, mandatory meetings to review fares and permits are often not held due to administrative workload, prompting the need for a dedicated authority.

Transport and Road Safety Commissioner AM Yogeesh has submitted a proposal to the government to amend the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules, 1999, enabling the formation of a separate Fare Regulatory Authority under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The Law Department has agreed to the proposal, and officials said the process to constitute the authority will begin shortly. Sources said that the new body is expected to bring transparency and consistency to fare revisions, especially when fuel prices rise or inflation increases. There is also a view that the existing fare regulation committee, currently empowered to fix fares for state transport corporations, could be extended to cover autos and cabs as well. **— BMB**

Smart Lift & Mobility World 2026 from today

Smart Lift & Mobility World 2026 will take place from February 5-7 at Hall 4, BIEC, Bengaluru, bringing together stakeholders from the elevator, escalator and vertical mobility sectors. The event will feature an exhibition, conferences, awards and an Elevator Safety Run. India currently accounts for over 9% of global elevator and escalator demand, with over 1,50,000 new elevators installed annually. The three-day event is expected to host 200+ exhibitors and showcase 500+ products. The event will be inaugurated on February 5 by Maheshwar Rao, IAS, Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority, with Dr. HR Shivakumar, KAS, Secretary, K-RERA, and Sumit Bhatnagar, Director, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd, as Guests of Honour. Anitha Raghunath, founder & Managing Director, Virgo Communications & Exhibitions, said, "Smart Lift & Mobility World 2026 reflects growth with purpose, focused on design for people. As India progresses toward a US$26 trillion economy by 2047, mobility solutions will be indispensable to building cities." **— BMB**

Jewellers told to step up efforts to guard their precious cargo

Soaring gold prices trigger surge in jewellery thefts, prompting police to mandate 360-degree CCTV surveillance across city stores

Police warn jewellers over non-functional or poor CCTV coverage

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The awareness programme began two weeks ago and is being conducted across police stations according to a fixed schedule, in coordination with jewellery store owners' associations

Day by day, as gold prices continue to climb, incidents of gold theft are also rising, with crimes reported at homes, on roads and inside jewellery shops. The surge has made gold an easy target for criminals, including first-time offenders seeking quick financial gains. In response, Bengaluru City Police have launched a special awareness drive among jewellery store owners, issuing a ten-day deadline to upgrade security systems with 360-degree CCTV surveillance covering shops and adjoining roads.

City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said strict monitoring and improved surveillance would enhance security. He added that the department maintains a recovery rate of nearly 80 per cent in theft-related cases, underscoring the importance of preventive measures alongside enforcement.

The awareness programme began two weeks ago and is being conducted across police stations according to a fixed schedule, in coordination with jewellery store owners' associations. Police officials have convened meetings with traders, urging them to adopt stringent security protocols to deter armed robberies and thefts. DCP North East G K Mithun Kumar said coordination through associations ensured participation, with around 30 to 40 shop owners attending each session.

During these meetings, police briefed traders on safety norms and guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Police, stressing the need for robust surveillance and preparedness. Shop owners were instructed to install CCTV cameras with complete coverage and recording facilities, ensure functional alarm systems, and implement multi-layered security arrangements. Periodic inspections of security infrastructure and immediate reporting of suspicious activity were also made mandatory.

The Commissioner said the drive was initiated following a daylight robbery at Madanayakanahalli police station limits, where three armed men barged into a jewellery shop, assaulted two youths and fled with gold ornaments and cash, highlighting vulnerabilities in security arrangements.

On January 27, three armed men stormed a jewellery shop near the Dasanapura bus stop within Madanayakanahalli limits. Police said the accused arrived on a two-wheeler around 5.30 pm, threatened those present with a pistol and attempted to rob the shop. A scuffle broke out with the shop owner's sons, during which one sustained minor injuries. The robbers escaped with over 30 grams of gold jewellery and 50,000 in cash. The incident was captured on CCTV footage, which police are analysing to identify suspects.

DCP Mithun Kumar said recent thefts exposed lapses such as non-functional cameras, inadequate coverage of entry and exit points and poor storage of footage. He noted that many shop owners remain unaware of practices like cloud storage and maintaining proper recordings.

Police have directed jewellers to upgrade to functional 360-degree CCTV systems within ten days, advising motion-sensor cameras and alarm systems as alternatives to private security guards. Officials also reminded traders that public safety laws mandate round-the-clock CCTV coverage.

Police said incidents of chain snatching and theft have declined, even as efforts continue to solve pending cases. Officers added that rising gold prices have attracted offenders, often driven by financial distress. Jewellers have welcomed the move, saying enhanced security will protect businesses and customers alike across the city.

From Bihar to B'luru: Wanted father-son duo held

In a major breakthrough, the Special Task Force (STF) of the Bihar Police arrested a notorious father-son criminal duo in Bengaluru, ending a years-long manhunt for the absconding pair.

The Bihar STF arrested Manik Singh and his father Manoj Singh, both wanted in multiple serious crimes, following sustained surveillance. The duo had allegedly been on the run for nearly five years, evading law enforcement across several states. Police said the father-son pair faces more than 40 criminal cases, including over 24 murders, registered in Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

According to a police official, investigations revealed that Manik had been hiding in Bengaluru for the last one year, while his father joined him. They were reportedly staying within the limits of the Kodigehalli police station. During this period, the accused made extortion calls to builders and businessmen, threatening them for money. However, police said no cases were registered against them within the North East Division, and they were living like residents.

After tracking their movements for months, the STF traced their location and arrested them. Police are now probing possible local contacts and activities. -BMB

Auto rams into bikes, killing KSRTC depot manager

A 41-year-old Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) depot manager died after an autorickshaw allegedly lost control and rammed into two motorcycles in Wilson Garden on Wednesday morning, police said.

The deceased was identified as Kumar, a resident of BTM Layout and manager of the KSRTC Fourth Depot. The fatal accident occurred around 6 am on BTS Road, near Medical Central, within the limits of the Wilson Garden Traffic Police Station.

According to preliminary investigations, Kumar was riding his motorcycle to work when an autorickshaw, allegedly being driven at high speed and in a rash manner, veered out of control and crashed into two motorcycles, including his. The violent impact threw Kumar onto the road, causing critical injuries.

Passersby immediately rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Another motorcyclist involved in the collision suffered injuries and is currently undergoing treatment. Police said the injured rider's condition is stable and he is out of danger. Traffic police personnel reached the spot, cleared vehicles, conducted an inspection, and registered a case against the autorickshaw driver for driving. -BMB

CCTV footage helps track down runaway siblings

A 13-year-old girl and her nine-year-old brother went missing from Ashwathnagar under HAL police station limits on Tuesday evening after their parents scolded them for skipping tuition. When they did not return home, the family filed a missing complaint.Police found that the girl used her Aadhaar card for free travel under the Shakti scheme and took her brother along. Planning to visit their grandmother in Chitradurga, they boarded a wrong bus to Shivamogga.Using CCTV footage, police tracked them to Majestic and reunited them with their family. -BMB

Cleanliness talks, open defecation reality remains

Public hygiene suffers as civic agencies pass responsibility while commuters continue using vacant land near Shettihalli bus shelter

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Open space behind the bus stop is being used as open toilet

Namma City has long lagged behind several other Indian cities when it comes to cleanliness, despite repeated claims and campaigns. Authorities concerned continue to appear apathetic towards achieving a top rank in the Swachh Survekshan audit. Even more telling is the failure to construct a much-needed public toilet for over a decade, raising serious questions about governance and accountability. Such negligence in maintaining public spaces not only hurts Bengaluru's ranking prospects but also creates daily health and hygiene challenges for residents and commuters.

A glaring example of this apathy can be seen at Shettihalli Bus Stop in Jalahalli West. Ajay Merchant, a resident of Shanti Layout on Mallasandra Main Road, first wrote to the Director of the Swachh Bharat Mission on May 28, 2015, seeking the construction of a public toilet near the bus stop. The location sees hundreds of commuters daily and is also frequented by visitors to the nearby BBMP office. Acknowledging the complaint, the Director of the Swachh Bharat Mission wrote to Dr Manjula N, Director of Municipal Administration, on July 1, 2015, requesting appropriate action.

However, the matter made little progress. With no response from local authorities, Merchant wrote again seeking a resolution. Years later, on September 15, 2022, the Director of SBM-II replied that the complaint had been forwarded to the Government of Karnataka for necessary action. The response asked Merchant to contact the government authorities directly for further information, effectively passing responsibility without resolving the issue.

> **"I have been writing letters to the authorities concerned seeking a solution to the problem but nothing has been done till date** – Ajay Merchant, Resident

Further correspondence revealed that on December 20, 2018, the Assistant Executive Engineer of BBMP's Shettihalli Sub-Division had written to Merchant stating that a proposal for constructing a public toilet opposite the BBMP Shettihalli Sub-Division Office, adjacent to the bus shelter, had already been submitted. Despite this assurance, no construction work has begun to date.

The issue gained public attention when Bangalore Mirror published a report titled "Will BBMP ever answer the call for a public toilet?" on July 14, 2024. The article highlighted residents' frustration over prolonged delays in providing a basic sanitation facility at the Shettihalli bus shelter, despite repeated representations over nearly ten years.

Residents continue to express anger and disgust over the inordinate delay. "I have been writing letters to the authorities concerned seeking a solution, but nothing has been done till date," Merchant said. He added that the Assistant Executive Engineer later informed him that no funds had been received from the Swachh Bharat Mission for the project. According to Merchant, officials said a fresh proposal would be sent and construction would begin once funds were sanctioned.

Echoing these concerns, resident Srikant Tunga said hundreds of commuters wait at the bus shelter daily, while many people visit the nearby BBMP office. "Due to the absence of a public toilet, people use vacant land behind the bus shelter to attend nature's call. Some even use toilets in a nearby school, causing inconvenience to students," he said.

Another resident, Yashwanth Kumar, pointed out that the stretch is lined with eateries attracting visitors in the evenings. "With no public toilet, people are forced to use open spaces. Authorities must act without further delay," he said. Meanwhile, the Assistant Executive Engineer of Shettihalli Sub-Division stated that construction of public toilets falls under the responsibility of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited. However, the Assistant General Manager of BSWML was unavailable for comment.

Puttenahalli Lake slips closer to ecological death

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The Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Reserve (YPL) is fast turning into a dead lake, raising serious environmental concerns. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has highlighted that the water quality of the lake has slipped to Class 'E', the worst possible category, over the last two months. The Board has officially reported the alarming deterioration to the National Green Tribunal (NGT). During the most recent inspection on January 22, KSPCB officials collected water samples from multiple points, including a stormwater drain on the lake's northern side, water flowing from Puttenahalli Lake through a natural nalla at the northeast, and the southwest diversion channel, and sent them to the KSPCB Environmental Laboratory.

The laboratory report revealed that the quality of water in all the collected samples falls under Class 'E'. At present, the entire lake surface is covered with water hyacinth, clearly indicating a significant influx of nutrients and unchecked pollution entering the water body.

According to the report, dissolved oxygen levels in some samples were recorded as low as 0.6, while the organic pollutant load was found to be extremely high, pointing to severe sewage contamination. The total coliform level in the lake water has reached 5,400 MPN per 100 millilitres, highlighting serious public health and ecological risks.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) standards, water resources classified under Class 'B', which is suitable for outdoor bathing, should have dissolved oxygen levels of not less than 5 and total coliform organisms below 500 MPN per 100 millilitres. The current readings at YPL are far below these prescribed limits. In view of the situation, KSPCB suggested that as ongoing underground drainage work by BWSSB will take another five to six months, sullage mixed with sewage entering the lake be temporarily conveyed through the newly established main sewer line, preventing further nutrient influx and enabling commencement of lake rejuvenation works.

Water hyacinth blankets lake, signalling unchecked nutrient and sewage inflow

The problem of sewage entering the lake began in May 2024 after heavy rainfall breached the western boundary of the lake, causing stormwater drains to overflow. Following a spot inspection by the Karnataka Forest Department and the then BBMP, a decision was taken to divert sewage away from the lake.

After receiving permission from the NGT, BWSSB began constructing a 600-metre sewer line within the reserve area to divert sewage to the under-construction Yelahanka wastewater treatment plant. According to BWSSB, pipe-laying work along the lake walkway has been completed for the full stretch. However, linking the lateral sewer network under World Bank assistance remains underway. A topographical survey covering 12.6 kilometres of the catchment has been completed, while 3.88 kilometres of sewer laying in the Puttenahalli catchment of Ananthapura Village is finished. The remaining work may take four to five months more overall.

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Open manhole
Kadugodi

Residents allege that despite repeated complaints over the past two days, BWSSB has failed to close an open manhole on AB Vajpayee Main Road in Kadugodi.

Road danger
Horamavu

A recently patched stretch at Nandanam Colony in Horamavu has deteriorated once again, with residents blaming poor-quality workmanship.

Safety lapses
Residency Road

Citizens have flagged serious safety and hygiene concerns at the foot overbridge outside the Embassy building on Residency Road, where overgrown tree branches clash with the structure and cement dust has coated plants and railings for over a year.

₹10 lakh penalty against Flipkart put on hold

The Karnataka High Court has stayed the enforcement of a ₹10 lakh penalty imposed on Flipkart Internet Private Limited by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), offering interim relief to the e-commerce company.

The stay was granted by Justice BM Shyam Prasad, who also paused the operation of a related direction requiring Flipkart to conduct periodic self audits. The interim order will remain in force until the matter is heard further by the court.

The penalty was imposed by the CCPA over the alleged sale of walkie-talkies on Flipkart's platform without adequate disclosures to consumers. According to the authority, the listings failed to mention crucial regulatory requirements, including the need for a wireless operating licence, permitted frequency bands, and mandatory Equipment Type Approval certification. The absence of such information, the CCPA said, could mislead buyers into believing the devices could be used without legal restrictions.

Challenging the order, Flipkart approached the High Court, arguing that it functions solely as an intermediary and cannot be held liable for regulatory compliance obligations that rest with individual sellers. The company also submitted that the listings in question had already been removed from its platform.

IN HIGH COURT

After considering the submissions, the High Court granted interim protection to Flipkart by staying both the monetary penalty and the self-audit directive. The matter is expected to be taken up for further consideration on the next date of hearing. **–BMB**

Benefit of doubt frees accused in POCSO case

The Karnataka High Court has upheld a trial court order acquitting two men accused of sexually assaulting a girl said to be a minor, observing that the victim's evidence was inconsistent and unreliable, and that the prosecution failed to establish the charges beyond reasonable doubt.

A Division Bench comprising Justice HP Sandesh and Justice Venkatesh Naik T dismissed the State's appeal against the acquittal, agreeing with the trial court's assessment of the evidence. The accused had earlier been booked under Sections 4, 7, 8, 11(iii) and 12 of the POCSO Act, and Sections 366(A), 376(1), 354(A)(1)(i)(2) and 354(D) of the Indian Penal Code.

While examining the record, the High Court referred to the trial court's findings on the age of the victim. The Bench noted that although the prosecution claimed the girl was 17 years and six months old at the time of the alleged incident, no bone ossification test was conducted to determine her age. The court further noted that during her deposition, the victim herself admitted that she was about 18 years old.

The Bench also closely examined the victim's testimony and observed that she had stated that, except for touching her hand and leg, the accused had left her. The court noted that even in her Section 164(5) CrPC statement, the victim did not allege that she was subjected to forcible sexual intercourse. Referring to the reasoning of the trial court, the High Court observed: "When PW1 herself has not stated anything about being subjected to a forcible sexual act, the evidence of PW2 will not come to the aid of the prosecution, and there is no medical evidence before the Court."

The evidence of the victim's father, examined as PW2, was held to be hearsay. The Bench further noted that there was no medical evidence to corroborate the prosecution's allegations. The court went on to observe, "In such circumstances, the question of invoking the offences under Sections 366(A), 376(1) and 354(A)(1)(i)(2) and 354(D) of the IPC, and Section 3 read with Sections 4, 7 read with Section 8, and 11(iii) read with Section 12 of the POCSO Act, 2012, does not arise in the absence of cogent evidence before the Court."

The Bench also concurred with the trial court's conclusion that the victim's evidence lacked consistency, stating: "The evidence of PW1, the victim, is inconsistent and not trustworthy, wherein allegations are made against accused Nos.1 and 2."

According to the prosecution, on April 25, 2022, accused No.2, who was acquainted with the girl when she was studying in the ninth standard, allegedly contacted her on the pretext of loving her and took her on his scooter to a temple and thereafter to a hotel, where he allegedly touched her hands and legs and subjected her to sexual assault and harassment.It was alleged that accused No.1 lured the girl and sexually assaulted her. The trial court acquitted both accused, and the High Court dismissed the State's appeal, finding no grounds to interfere. **–BMB**

Private vehicles are quietly taking over streets

Vehicle registrations surge nearly 7% in 2025, spotlighting Bengaluru's congestion, pollution and public transport shortfalls

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Rising vehicle ownership tightens traffic and reshapes daily urban movement

Experts warn unchecked car and scooter growth, driven by weak transit systems, threatens liveability, mobility efficiency and urban air quality

Bengaluru has witnessed a nearly 7% spike in private vehicle registrations in 2025 compared with the previous year.

Data from the Transport Department show that while more than 4.9 lakh private cars and two-wheelers were added to the city's roads between April and December 2025, a little over 4.6 lakh new private vehicles were registered during the same period last year.

This upward trend in monthly registrations has been recorded for both cars and two-wheelers. The total number of private four-wheelers registered in 2024 was a little over 1.06 lakh. Between April and December 2025, as many as 1,11,744 new cars hit Bengaluru's roads.

Similarly, while a little over 3.56 lakh two-wheelers were added in 2024, the figure crossed the 3.8 lakh mark in 2025.

With this, the total number of private two-wheelers and cars in the city is currently nearing 1.09 crore. This includes more than 24 lakh private cars and over 84 lakh two-wheelers.

The total number of vehicles (transport and non-transport) in the city stands at a little over 1.23 crore.

City-based mobility experts say that while rising income levels are one of the reasons for the surge in private vehicle additions, inadequate public transport, along with poor last-mile connectivity to existing mass transit systems, are the primary causes.

"The direction Bengaluru is moving in, the city will soon become unliveable. There is a total lack of convenient and affordable public transport systems, pushing citizens to purchase private vehicles," an expert said.

Public transport proponents note that while the city's population is surging, the development of mass transit infrastructure remains extremely slow. While BMTC buses are increasingly abandoned due to inconvenience and a lack of reliability, the existing Metro network covers only a small portion of the city and is marred by inefficient and unreliable last-mile connectivity.

"With improvements in income levels, more people are in a position to buy private vehicles. Bengaluru's model is a classic example of unsustainable development. The majority of infrastructure development activities are unplanned. If the government does not reset its direction immediately and move towards a sustainable development approach with a focus on mass transit systems, Bengaluru will soon become a gridlocked city," a public transport proponent argued.

Experts also underline the impact of the growing number of private vehicles on the city's air quality, which at traffic hotspots can be compared to emission levels in Delhi or Kolkata.

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SECRETARY

No sweat this summer: Power surplus after 5% generation jump

Strong hydel thermal and renewable output eases summer fears, enables surplus sales to neighbouring states

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Strong reservoir levels boost hydel output, emerging as a key stabilising factor for Karnataka's power system

With generation up 1,100 MW, full reservoirs and diversified sources, Karnataka assures uninterrupted supply, selling extra power, boosting confidence this summer for households, farms and industries across the state wide

Karnataka has recorded a five percent increase in electricity generation this year, bringing major relief to consumers and easing fears of power shortages during the peak summer months. With generation now exceeding demand, the state has not only secured uninterrupted supply for domestic needs but has also begun selling surplus power to neighbouring states.

Compared to last year, electricity production has gone up by nearly 1,100 megawatts, marking a sharp turnaround from 2024, when the state faced severe power stress. Officials say there is unlikely to be any power shortage this summer, with supply expected to remain stable at least until the end of July. A strong performance by both conventional and renewable energy sources has helped Karnataka move closer to self-reliance in the power sector.

Over the past five years, the state has steadily increased its electricity generation capacity. During 2024-25, up to the end of January, total generation stood at 29,634 megawatts. In the corresponding period of 2025-26, generation rose to 30,733 megawatts.

An official said "Rising demand has been driven by the expansion of agricultural land, growth in residential and commercial areas, increased use of air-conditioners and household appliances, and steady industrialisation. At present, Karnataka's daily electricity demand stands at around 15,715 megawatts. Despite this, supply has remained comfortable due to improved planning and diversification of energy sources."

Hydropower has emerged as a key stabilising factor. Thanks to better-than-expected rainfall during both the monsoon and post-monsoon seasons last year, reservoirs across the state are well stocked, ensuring continuous generation from hydropower stations. Up to the end of January in 2024-25, hydel units generated 11,114 megawatts, which increased to 13,059 megawatts during the same period in 2025-26.

Thermal power continues to contribute the largest share at 17,069 megawatts, followed by hydel power. Renewable sources are also making steady gains, with solar power contributing 29.18 megawatts, wind energy 5.44 megawatts, mini-hydel projects 3.18 megawatts, waste-to-energy plants 55.68 megawatts, and gas-based units, including Yelahanka, adding over 500 megawatts.

Sources said Karnataka's performance in wind energy has drawn national and global attention. The state's installed wind power capacity is higher than that of countries such as South Africa, Portugal and New Zealand, and is close to the levels seen in Sweden and Australia. Last year, Karnataka recorded an average daily wind power generation of over 50 million units, which has now increased to around 55.15 million units per day.

Officials from KPCL said that based on current reservoir levels, Karnataka can generate nearly 33 million units of electricity per day from hydropower alone until the end of July. Thermal units at Raichur, Yermarus and Ballari are also being kept ready to meet any surge in summer demand. In addition, schemes such as PM Kusum, Kusum B and Kusum C have helped farmers reduce dependence on grid power, cut costs and generate additional income, further easing pressure on the power system.

Guaranteed work shrinks to fifty days

Despite the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act mandating 100 days of wage employment per rural household annually, beneficiaries have received only about 50 days of work on average since the scheme's inception. Enacted in 2005 and rolled out nationwide by 2008, was envisioned as a legal guarantee of employment. However, data from 2006 to 2025 spanning UPA and NDA regimes shows that actual employment has fluctuated between 43 and 54 days, with the lowest average of 42 days recorded in 2007-08 and the highest of 54 days in 2009-10.

Karnataka mirrors the national pattern, with rural households receiving between 45 and 52 days of employment in recent years. Although the Centre allocated Rs 86,000 crore for the scheme in 2025-26, the funding ratio has been revised from 90:10 to 60:40, shifting a larger financial burden onto states. Experts caution that proposals to raise the work limit to 125 days appear impractical when even the existing guarantee is unmet. Low wages drive rural youth from Bihar, Assam and Bengal to costal Karnataka, exposing persistent employment gaps. -BMB

Traffic chaos after highway caves in near Attibele

Traffic on the busy Bengaluru–Hosur corridor was thrown into chaos on Wednesday after a portion of National Highway-44 near Attibele caved in amid ongoing road-widening works, bringing vehicular movement to a standstill for several hours. Officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said the collapse occurred during deep excavation for a proposed vehicular overpass. The additional width created for the project allegedly loosened the soil, triggering the sudden cave-in of part of the carriageway. The damaged stretch was promptly barricaded and traffic diverted, leading to long queues and heavy delays for commuters, office-goers, and freight vehicles bound for Hosur and Chennai. Motorists were urged to take alternate routes while repairs are carried out. –PTI

No resignation, says Timmapur amid protests

Karnataka Minister R B Timmapur on Wednesday asserted that there was no question of his resigning, dismissing the opposition's allegations of corruption against him as "false" and a "political conspiracy," even as the BJP and JD(S) staged protests in the legislative assembly seeking his removal from the ministry.

Timmapur denied wrongdoing, called charges baseless, as opposition staged overnight protests. He accused rivals of conspiracy, while R Ashoka alleged bribes in Excise licensing and offical tranfers, intensifying the political standoff. –PTI

Unpaid health care interns launch campus protest

Students of the B.Sc. Allied Health Sciences (AHS) programme at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) began a peaceful protest on Tuesday against the continued non-payment of internship stipends and the lack of basic facilities. The students, who are undergoing their compulsory internship under the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), said they have been performing full-time clinical duties without any financial compensation.

After completing three years of academic study, AHS students are required to undergo a one-year compulsory internship. During this period, interns work eight to twelve hours daily, including night shifts, and actively assist in patient care, the students said. Despite these responsibilities, no stipend has been paid so far.

They pointed out that the National Council for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHCP) has made stipend payment mandatory during internships. Students also highlighted disparities, noting that interns at institutions such as Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, IGICH, Sanjay Gandhi Institute, and Jayadeva Institute receive stipends.

The lack of financial support has caused significant mental and financial stress, students said, adding that they are also denied government hostel facilities and must rely on costly private accommodation. Repeated representations to authorities have yielded no response, forcing them to protest. They also alleged inadequate infrastructure, shortage of dedicated faculty, and absence of proper academic spaces for AHS courses, and urged authorities to address the issues at the earliest. –BMB

TeleMANAS integrated into emergency response system

In a major boost to mental health crisis response, Tele MANAS (14416) has been integrated with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS – Namma 112) to enable faster, coordinated assistance for people in psychological distress across Bengaluru.

The integration was formally launched on February 4 at 11 am in the presence of Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and Dr Pratima Murthy, Director of National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences.

Under the new system, mental health-related calls to 112 will be seamlessly transferred to Tele MANAS counsellors, while psychiatric emergencies flagged by Tele MANAS will be routed to 112 responders for immediate intervention.

Officials said the initiative bridges policing and mental healthcare, ensuring timely, humane and compassionate support during crises, including suicide risk and severe emotional distress. Tele MANAS provides free, confidential counselling via 14416, website, email and mobile app. Residents are urged to seek help without hesitation.

Authorities said the integration will strengthen citywide crisis management, reduce response time, and improve outcomes through better coordination, trained manpower, and continuous awareness efforts on mental health support services, benefiting vulnerable populations across communities.

Officials urged residents to make use of the facility and seek help without hesitation during mental health emergencies. –BMB

Fertility leave marks shift toward inclusive workplaces

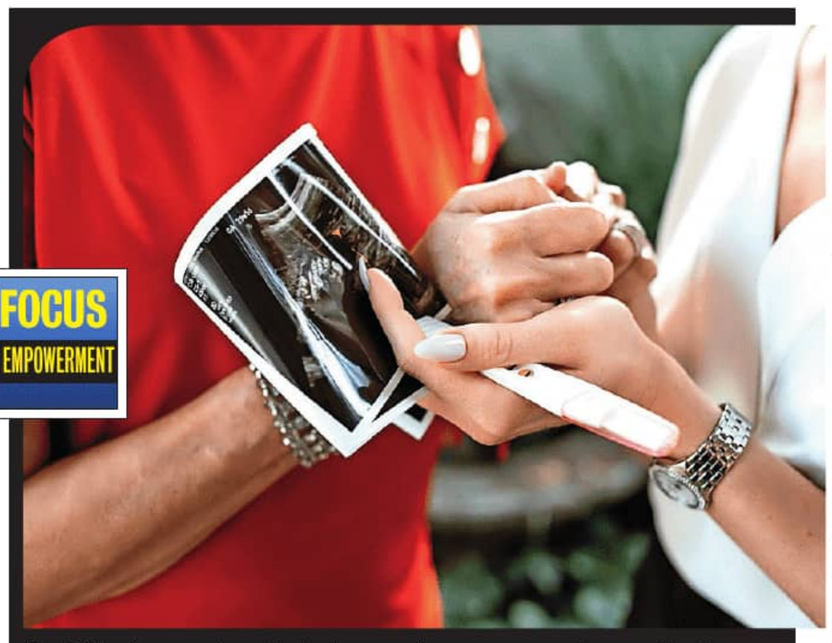
Company introduces fertility support leave, reflecting commitment to inclusivity and supporting employees through fertility treatment and parenthood journey

INFOCUS
EMPLOYEE EMPOWERMENT

Diageo India has introduced a Fertility Support Leave policy, reinforcing its commitment to building an inclusive and progressive workplace. The policy, which has come into effect from January 2026, is aimed at supporting employees undergoing fertility treatment, as well as those assisting a partner or planning parenthood.

Under the initiative, full-time employees will be eligible for up to 10 days of paid Fertility Support Leave annually. The leave can be availed flexibly, either in full or half days, and taken consecutively or across multiple instances, allowing employees to manage medical appointments, treatment schedules, recovery time, and work responsibilities more effectively.

Shilpa Vaid, Chief Human Resources Officer, Diageo India, said workplaces play an important role in offering understanding and flexibility to women navigating deeply personal fertility journeys shaped by choice, circumstance, and medical realities. She noted that thoughtful workplace policies can help minimise emotional strain and career trade-offs associated with fertility treatment.



Fertility leave aims to help employees manage medical appointments, treatment schedules, recovery time and work responsibilities more effectively

Labour experts have welcomed the move, calling it a step towards recognising reproductive health as a legitimate workplace concern. "Fertility treatment involves repeated medical visits and emotional strain, which are rarely acknowledged in labour policies," said a Bengaluru-based labour rights researcher, adding that dedicated fertility leave helps normalise these conversations and prevents employees, particularly women, from being forced to choose between health and employment.

Expert opinion

"Fertility treatments like IVF can be physically taxing due to frequent injections, procedures and hormonal changes, and emotionally demanding because of the uncertainty and pressure involved. While complete bed rest isn't routinely required, we often recommend short periods of rest or the option to continue working with flexible hours during key stages such as egg retrieval and embryo transfer," said Dr Manisha Singh, Additional Director — Gynaecologist and Subspecialist in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road.

She said that formal fertility leave, along with flexible work policies, can improve adherence to treatment timelines, emotional well-being and potentially success rates.

Dr Manjunath, Deputy Medical Director at Birla Fertility and IVF, said fertility treatment affects men as well. "Men are emotionally impacted too, and many find the process equally exhausting," he said, advocating for employer-supported fertility leave. —**Rachana Ramesh**

Experts hail step seeing reproductive health as workplace concern

CRIME FILES

Security staff, man booked in club dispute

The Cubbon Park police have registered two separate FIRs in connection with the same incident at a Bengaluru club, where a 55-year-old man was allegedly seen creating a public nuisance while attempting to enter the premises to retrieve his lost mobile phone on Tuesday afternoon. One case has been filed against the security staff for alleged assault, while another has been registered against the man for causing a disturbance in a public place.

A complaint was filed by Rajesh Ananth, 55, who alleged assault by security personnel and a hit-and-run incident involving a car at Bengaluru Kaaba on Lavelle Road. According to the complaint, Ananth stated that he visited Bengaluru Kaaba with his family on February 1, 2026, but forgot his mobile phone at the premises. The following day, he returned to the restaurant around 2 pm to retrieve the device. However, security personnel allegedly denied him entry. Police said Ananth, who admitted to being under the influence of alcohol, created a commotion at the gate and attempted to enter the premises forcibly. He alleged that one of the guards assaulted him with a cane.

The complaint further stated that Ananth, enraged over the alleged assault, tried to stop a car at the gate. He claimed that security personnel signalled the driver to move ahead, following which the vehicle struck him. Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

SOCIALTATTLE

What's Tweeting

A social media user tweeted about a 10-foot compound wall built on Muzrai department land at Kaderenahalli, questioning approvals as a BMRCL metro station is planned at the site.

Namma Blr @infrablr · 1h
@RLR_BTM A 10 foot high compound wall is constructed recently in a Muzrai dept land at Kaderenahalli on which a @OfficialBMRCL metro station will be built shortly.
Who approved this construction fully knowing it will be demolished ?
Tax payers money wasted..
Pls investigate..

@sai_mahesh792 highlighted Bengaluru's worsening roadside dust, saying daily bike rides now require masks and jackets, and questioning whether poor planning is pushing citizens towards car dependency.

SAI MAHESH @sai_mahesh792... · 14h
Roadside dust in Bengaluru is insane. Forced to wear jacket + mask every single bike ride. Feels like the system wants us all in cars.
#BengaluruDust @GBAChiefComm @EASTCITYCORP @CivicOp_India @bengalurupost1 @TOIBengaluru @ChristinMP_ @siddaramaiah @TVMohandasPai

Mohan K ( ) @mohan_a... · 5h
Flex hoarding caught on fire in hebbal flyover yesterday
Dear @GBA_office take action on banners and flexes in Bangalore before bigger fires
@GBAChiefComm @Maheshbr4U @ChristinMP_ @DKShivakumar @siddaramaiah
Mohan K ( ) @mohan_... · 17h
Billboard by Hebbala Flyover caught fire this afternoon. Driving towards Manyata Tech Park ... youtube.com/shorts/QQlxmce... via @YouTube #Bengaluru #bangalore #city

A platform X user flagged a flex hoarding fire near Hebbal flyover, urging the Greater Bengaluru Authority to act against illegal banners before they trigger larger, dangerous incidents.

INBRIEF

Court quashes Belagavi councillors' disqualification

Karnataka High Court has set aside the disqualification of two councillors of the Belagavi Municipal Corporation who had been removed from office for allegedly failing to disclose that their wives had secured leasehold rights to certain properties through an auction.

The councillors were disqualified under Section 26(1)(k) of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, following a complaint that their spouses had benefited from an auction of leasehold rights relating to buildings constructed by the Public Works Department. The auction took place in 2020, while the councillors were elected only in 2021.

Allowing the petitions, Justice Suraj Govindaraj held that the provision could not be invoked, as the alleged benefit was not derived after the petitioners assumed office.

The court noted that Section 26(1)(k) deals with disqualification both at the stage of being chosen as a councillor and for continuing in office, but the core requirement is the existence of a share in a work, contract or employment connected with the corporation that gives rise to a conflict of interest.

"In the present case, it is undisputed that the auction of the leasehold rights was conducted in 2020, when the petitioners were not elected representatives," the court observed.

The State contended that the councillors had failed to disclose the leasehold rights obtained by their spouses in the asset declarations filed under Section 19(2) of the Act. However, the court found that non-disclosure, by itself, could not attract disqualification when the underlying transaction occurred prior to the petitioners' election. **BMB**

IndiGo cancellations impacted over 9 lakh passengers in Dec

More than 10.4 lakh passengers were affected by flight cancellations in December, with over 93 per cent of the total passengers getting impacted by IndiGo cancellations.

Latest data shared by aviation regulator DGCA also showed that scheduled domestic airlines shelled out over Rs 24.27 crore towards compensation and facilities for flight cancellations that affected more than 10.46 lakh passengers in December.

Out of them, flight cancellations by IndiGo impacted 9.82 lakh passengers in December and the airline spent Rs 22.74 crore towards facilitation.

The overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines was 6.92 per cent in December, and that of IndiGo was 9.65 per cent.

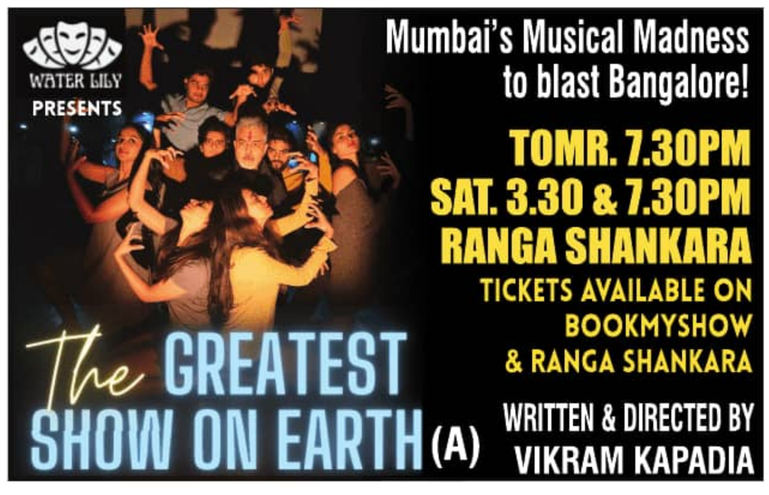
IndiGo, the country's largest airline, faced massive flight disruptions in early December and during that month, its market share fell to 59.6 per cent from 63.6 per cent in November.

During December, a total of 29,212 passenger-related complaints had been received by the scheduled domestic airlines and the number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried was at around 20.41, as per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

According to the DGCA data, flight delays impacted 8.34 lakh passengers and airlines spent Rs 4.50 crore towards facilitation in December.

In December, as many as 2,050 passengers were denied boarding by the airlines, which shelled out Rs 2.08 crore towards compensation and facilitation in this regard.

In December, the market share of Air India Group and Akasa Air rose to 29.6 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively. **PTI**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Stringent rules, awareness programmes need of the hour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said the state government has officially declared that the minimum age for purchase and consumption of alcohol is 21 years and bars and pubs generally have an entry age restriction of 18 or 21 years. "The absence of proper age verification is putting children at serious risk.

Article 33 states that the authorities take appropriate measures to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances. Protecting children from harmful practices such as alcohol consumption is a clear responsibility of the State," he said.

He demanded that the authorities make age verification (ID proof) mandatory at all pubs, bars and establishments that serve alcohol to prevent entry and alcohol consumption by anyone below 18 years of age.

Emphasising the need of awareness programmes to keep children away from drugs and alcohol, Vinod Jacob, a social activist, said that stringent rules are needed prohibiting alcohol service to anyone less than 18 years of age.

"Police should conduct surprise inspections on every pub/bar and restaurant in the city. Schools must create awareness on the ill-effects of consuming alcohol and substance abuse, with parents reinforcing these lessons at home," he said.

Stating that making alcohol available to minors is not only illegal but also immoral, Anjali Ramanna, Women and Juvenile Rights Advocate, said that licences of such businesses must be cancelled for life.

"Stricter laws should be implemented to curb the media that depicts alcohol and other equivalent substances as signs of heroism.

The Child Rights Commission shall work on this issue to bring about an updated, upgraded solution and make a recommendation to the government," she said.

Will 2026 be the year delayed project wraps up?

KAUSHIK JN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

considered. Those actively involved in the rejuvenation process and monitoring it since the beginning, say such discrepancies in opinion arise due to a lack of transparency.

"BDA has not shared with us the detailed breakdown of the ongoing work and stage-wise milestones. This makes it difficult to verify what constitutes the 56%. Additionally, percentages can be misleading when early-stage preparatory activities are weighted the same as critical work during execution phases. Without clarity on how progress is being measured, claims of 56% completion provide a false sense of closure," Sonali Singh, Citizen Volunteer.

A publicly shared, detailed activity-wise work breakdown structure with important milestones is the need of the hour, say concerned citizens.

Citizens say that although wetland development has commenced at Iblur and the main inlet, the work can progress at a much faster pace with focused execution. BDA, in the report, has stated that the amount of work and the number of work hours estimated at the beginning of the project have increased considerably. While de-watering went up by 15,492.5 hours, desilting of temporary diversion canals has increased beyond the estimated amount of 1,904,691 square metre. Moreover, the diversion canal on both the northern and southern sides of the lake has undergone silt accumulation, and this has led to an increase in the quantity of desilting by 2.87 lakh cubic metre.

"I visited the lake in November, and while considerable desilting of the water body and wetland area has taken place, there is not much progress concerning wetland development. As per the design that we provided, BDA is supposed to plant a variety of nutrient-removing plants in the one-acre area, on the lines of Jakkur Lake. Removal of silt constitutes a tiny fraction of wetland creation work. BDA has been misguiding the NGT on the rejuvenation progress estimate," said Dr TV Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

While the work has seen renewed momentum in recent weeks, citizens stress that the project remains vulnerable unless execution, governance, and transparency are strengthened. They caution that several unresolved issues could jeopardise the timely completion of the project.

"Despite NGT's order, marshals deployed to prevent solid waste dumping, fencing breaches, and fresh encroachments have been withdrawn due to a lack of contract renewal. Illegal dumping and debris accumulation continue in the buffer zone. Moreover, raw sewage mixed with solid waste continues to flow into the temporary sewage diversion channel, pointing to serious coordination failures by BWSSB," said a resident, who has been closely monitoring the ongoing rejuvenation work by BDA.

Encroachments remain

Locals say that while some work progress has been made by BDA over the last couple of months, glaring issues such as encroachments at Ambedkar Colony have still not been removed, undermining lake protection efforts.

"We sincerely hope the remaining parts of Bellandur Lake are rejuvenated before the next monsoon and before funds run out. It will be shameful if Bellandur Lake Rejuvenation is not completed in 2026. There is already a six-year delay from the original commitment made to the NGT," added Singh.

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Any person(s) having any right, title, interest, claim, objection or demand in respect of the said property, by way of sale, agreement to sell, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, charge, lien, lease, gift, trust, court order or otherwise, are hereby called upon to intimate the same in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be conclusively presumed that the property is free from all encumbrances and claims, and the purchaser shall proceed with the transaction. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Kewalchand S/O, Bhuraram R/o No.5/6,24th Main,agara,hsr Layout,bangalore-560102 have changed my name to Kewalchand Bhuraram.

I, Deveerappa R/o No.2555, 16th main, Kumaraswamy layout, 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Deveerappa Malledeveerappa. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Vasantha Mary Sunder Raj R/o No 21 Lokesh Tent Road Shaamanna layout Lingarajpuram Bengaluru 560084 have changed my name to Vasantha Mary Peter for all Purposes.

I, Sujata Hosabanna Nayak, W/o. Rajeev Sarvamitra Shastri, aged 62 years, residing at E033 Pariwar Wise Palm Springs HSR Extension, have changed my name from Sujata to Sujata Hosabanna Nayak.

I JAFFER KHAN ZICKRIYA KHAN RESIDING AT NO. 10, 1 / 3, Millers road Benson town Bangalore 560 046 have changed my name to JAFFER KHAN vide AFFIDAVIT DATED 6-1- 2026 before notary Leela Bangalore

I TABASSUM SULTANA KHAN RESIDING AT NO. 10, 1 / 3, Millers road Benson town Bangalore 560 046 have changed my name to TABASUM SULTANA VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 6-1- 2026 before notary Leela Bangalore

I, KUBRA JAMEEL, R/a. No.98,1st Main,4th Street, Bhoopasandra, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore–94. I, have Changed my name to KUBRA SHAIK, Vide affidavit, dated 21/01/2026 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hassan Bangalore-

I, POOJA SINGH, R/at D-906, D-Block, BDA Skandagiri Apartments, Konadasapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560049, have changed my name to POOJA vide affidavit dated: 04/02/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Vinaya Kumar Manjunath r/o #004, Sharada Sadana,Odion Rainbow Retreat Layout, K No 1801/52/1, Halanayakanahalli Village, Near Glentree Academy Sarjapura School, Off Sarjapura Road, Bangalore, Karnataka, -560035, have changed my name to Vinay Kumar.

I, Gangadhara G S R/o 124/1, Doddagarudanahalli, Basaralu Holali, Mandya Taluk, Mandya District-571416 have changed my name to Gangadhar G S.

I, Rajeev Sarvamitra Shastri, S/o. Sarvamitra Shastri, aged 60 years, residing at E033 Pariwar Wise Palm Springs HSR Extension, have changed my name from Rajeev to Rajeev Sarvamitra Shastri.

I, Arpitha Panduranga R/o No 1342 Shankari Nilaya 26th Main 27th Cross Bsk 2nd Stage Bengaluru 560070, Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Sannidhi Prabhanjan Gowda to Sannidhi Gowda for All Purposes.

I, MD Tauhid R/o Flat.302, Srikrishna Apt, 3rd cross, Teacher colony, 1-stage, BDA cplx, 2-block, Hbr Lyt, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Mahammad Tauhid. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Vidit Jhindal S/o Anil Kumar Agrawal R/o B1001, Salarpuria Sattva Senorita, Kaikondrahalli, Bengaluru–560035, have corrected the spelling of my surname to Vidit Jindal vide affidavit dated 3/2/2026 sworn before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar

I, SUPREETHA residing at Kandavara, Moodlakatte Post, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi – 576217. I have changed my name to SUPREETHA M DEVADIGA vide affidavit dated 21/01/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

I, DHRUVA NAYAKA residing at No 15, 14th Cross, 2nd Main, Singapura Garden, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru – 560097. I have changed my name to DHRUVA B vide affidavit dated 02/02/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

I, RAJU SRI RAJA KAKARLAPUDI VEERA VENKATA VARAHA LAKSHMI KANTHA residing at S-104, Satya Greens Apartment, Thindlu, Vidyaranyapura – 560097. I have changed my name to RAJU S R K V V V L K vide affidavit dated 02/02/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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NEPAL-MUKTHINATH TOUR : May: 5,19 June : 9,23
July : 7,21 Aug: 11 18 Sep:9,16,2329,30Oct : 6,20,27 Nov: 10,17

Bhuthan Tour- Feb : 14,21 Mar : 7,14,21 April : 4,11,18,25,30
May: 2,9,16,23,30June : 6,13,20,27 July : 4,18,25 Aug : 8,15,22,29. Sep:5,12,19

CHARDHAM /DHODHAM TOUR 14 DAYS :
April :28 May : 3,11,18,26 Jun : 2,9,18,25 July:9,17,24, 30Aug : 8,14,22
Sep : 2,9,16,23,30 Oct: : 2,,9,16,21

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 # Back as Captain America
Chris Evans returns as Captain America in Avengers: Doomsday, remaining central to the MCU storyline

BangaloreMirror | 9
Thursday, February 5, 2026
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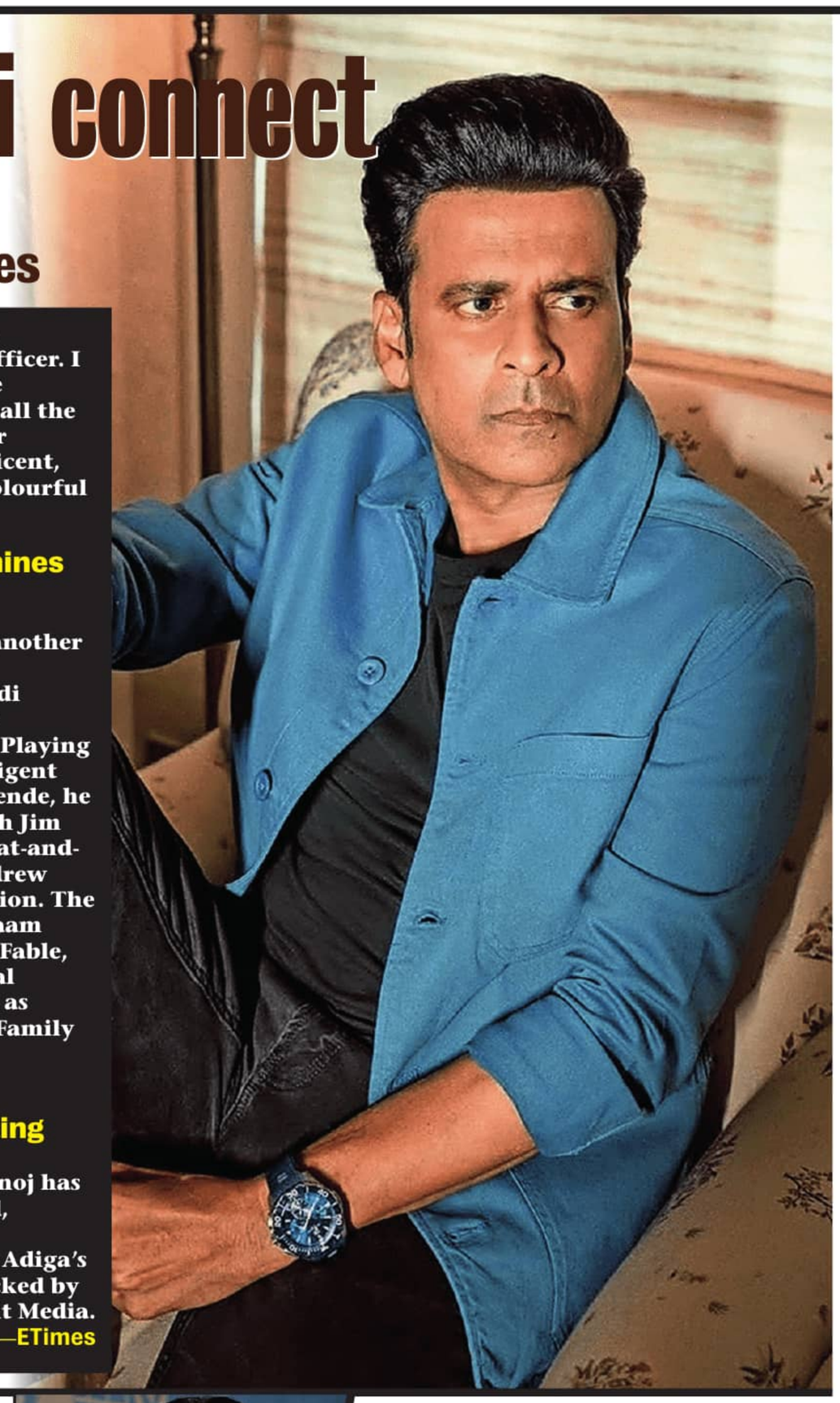
Bajpayee's Delhi connect

Actor opens up about personal connection to Delhi-based stories



Manoj Bajpayee shared his deep affection for portraying characters from Delhi. The actor, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming OTT film Ghooskhor Pandit, said that stories rooted in the capital resonate strongly with him.

Manoj Bajpayee opens up about his love for Delhi stories

Attending a Netflix event in Mumbai on Tuesday, Bajpayee said, 'No, this character is not intense but is on the wrong side of the law. In the teaser, as I was watching, you get to hear the fundamentals of the character. Since joining the service, he has remained at the same rank. He is a scorer, a womaniser, a married man, but he is still in love with another woman.'

Bajpayee further added, 'This is a story set in a place where I have spent many years of my life — where I did theatre and completed my graduation in Delhi. In my life, I enjoy any film set in Delhi because I first experienced the city as an outsider when I was 18. When I left, it was for Bandit Queen. I really enjoy playing characters from Delhi, especially this police officer. I truly thank Ritesh, the director, who deserves all the praise and applause for writing such a magnificent, interesting and very colourful character for me.'

Manoj Bajpayee shines in powerful 2025 releases

In 2025, Manoj added another hit to his career with Inspector Zende, a Hindi action-comedy thriller released in September. Playing the eccentric yet intelligent Inspector Madhukar Zende, he went head-to-head with Jim Sarbh in a fast-paced cat-and-mouse narrative that drew strong audience attention. The actor also starred in Raam Reddy's Jugnuma: The Fable, praised at international festivals, and returned as Srikant Tiwari in The Family Man Season 3.

Manoj Bajpayee prepares for exciting new projects

On the work front, Manoj has an exciting slate ahead, including the Hindi adaptation of Aravind Adiga's Last Man in Tower, backed by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media.

—ETimes

Celina Jaitly's fight brings hope

Actor Celina Jaitly expressed relief and gratitude after the Delhi High Court allowed the appointment of a UAE-based legal firm to represent her brother, Major (retd) Vikrant Jaitly, who has been in detention in Dubai for nearly eighteen months.

Celina shared the update on Instagram, posting an emotional note thanking the court and her legal team. Fellow actor Preity Zinta also extended her support in the comments.

Sharing the development on social media, Celina wrote, 'Today the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi stepped in to restore a soldier's right. After months of relentless effort, I have secured legal representation for my brother, Major Vikrant Kumar Jaitly (retd), held in the UAE for more than 16 months.'

She further posted details of the court's order and acknowledged the efforts of her lawyers. Concluding her note, she said, 'Together, with the steadfast support of the MEA, I truly believe we'll bring back our soldier who gave his entire youth in service to our nation.'

Preity Zinta wished Celina strength on her post, to which the actress responded affectionately. ANI reported that the Delhi High Court directed the MEA to appoint Dubai-based firm Al Maree Partners to represent Major (retd) Vikrant Jaitly in UAE courts on a pro bono basis. Celina has alleged that her brother was illegally abducted and detained in the UAE in September 2024, with no clarity on his status so far.

—ETimes

Indian hip-hop reaches NBA

Rapper and music icon Badshah is set to create history as the first Indian rapper to take the court at the 2026 NBA All-Star Celebrity Game in Los Angeles, and said that 'this moment belongs to all of us'.

On representing India and becoming the first Indian rapper to take the court at the 2026 NBA All-Star Celebrity Game, Badshah told IANS: 'Moments like these remind me why I started — to break boundaries and create new firsts. I'm carrying the energy of Indian hip-hop, Indian fans and Indian dreams with me to Los Angeles.'

He added: 'This moment belongs to all of us. Growing up in India, the NBA felt like a dream world.'

Badshah said the NBA reflects the space where sport, music and culture intersect, calling his participation deeply personal and a proud moment for Indian hip-hop. He will play at the 2026 Ruffles NBA All-Star Celebrity Game on February 13 at the Kia Forum, alongside stars including Keegan-Michael Key, DJ Mustard, GloRilla and Jeremy Lin, with a halftime performance by K-pop group CORTIS.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Novel-based movie

The trailer of the forthcoming Kannada film Sarala Subbarao was unveiled recently. Set against the backdrop of the 1970s, the film is helmed by Manju Swaraj and is scheduled for release on February 12. Ajay Rao and Misha Narang play the lead pair.

Speaking on the occasion, director Manju Swaraj said that the teaser, trailer and songs of the film have become popular among audiences. "The film is based on a novel written by Triveni. Many Kannada films based on her novels have been made in the past, and all of them were successful at the box office.The film was shot at a 100-year-old house in Mysuru and features Rangayana Raghu, Veena Sundar, Raghu Ramanakoppa and Vijay Chandur, with music by Ajaneesh Lokanath. Ajay Rao will be seen in a retro look in the 1970s-set film, releasing on Valentine's Day, while Misha Narang expressed happiness about being part of the project. Producer Lohith Nanjundaiah said he backed the film for its strong script.

Muhurat function

The muhurat function of the new film Vinasha Kaale was held recently at the Madduramma and Yellamma Devi Temple in the Rajajinagar Industrial Area. Former president of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce Ba Ma Harish sounded the clapboard and wished the cast and crew good luck. Kannada Bigg Boss fame Dog Satish, Mallamma and Karibasappa were present on the occasion.

The film is being made under the Shakti Films banner. S Kiran Kumar from Tumakuru makes his directorial debut in Sandalwood with this film. Earlier, Kiran Kumar worked as an associate with several well-known directors for five years.

The film stars Pavanasiri, Rishika Gowda and others, with casting still under way. It will be shot over 30 days across Bengaluru and Chikmagalur. Debut director Kiran Kumar said the real-life-inspired story follows five boys and five girls who take the wrong path to quick money, highlighting its social message alongside entertainment.

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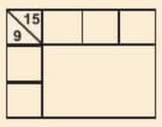
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

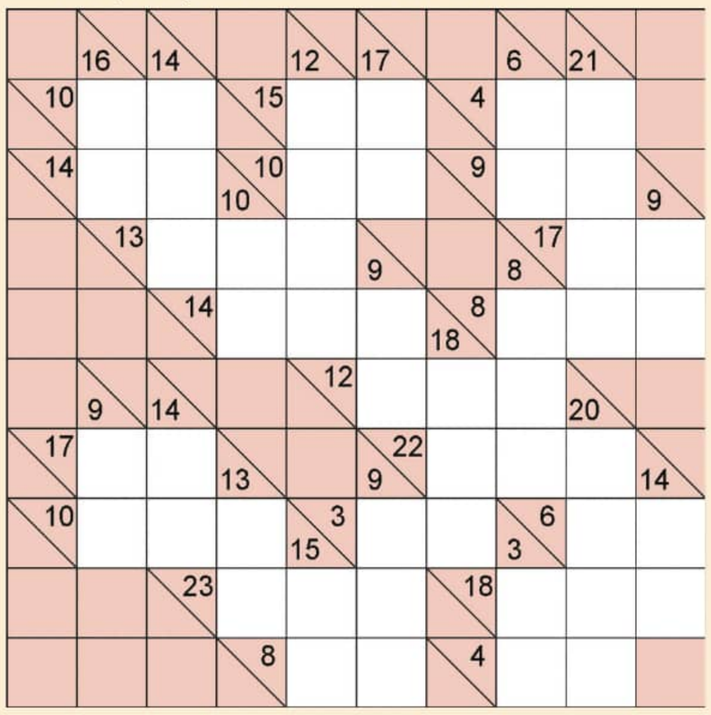
$(5\sqrt{4}) \times (5\sqrt{-4}) \times (5\sqrt{-2}) + (3\sqrt{6}) \times (3\sqrt{(9/2)})] = ?$

Kakuro

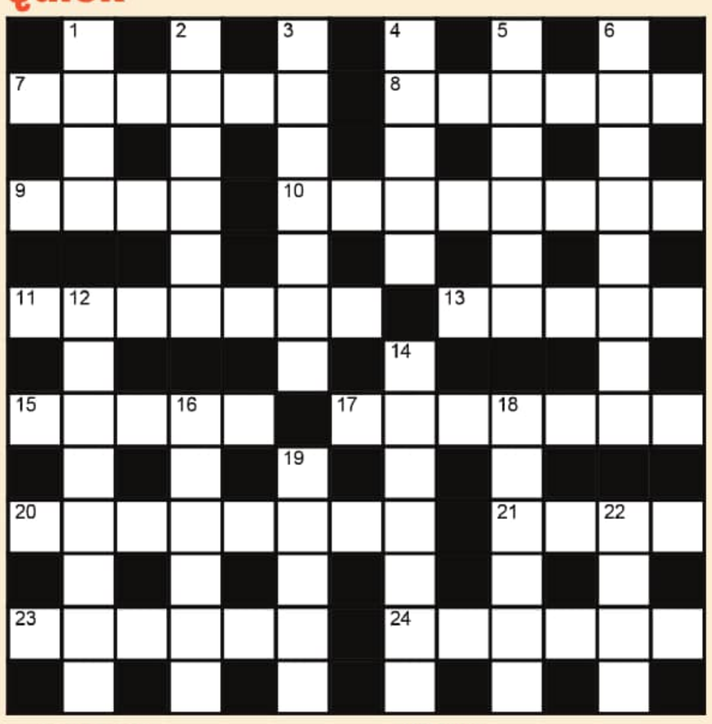
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Merriment (6)
8 ___ show : a solo effort ? (3-3)
9 Semi-transparent mineral used in insulations (4)
10 Was a threat or a menace (8)
11 Send ___ : dismiss cheaply or defeat unceremoniously? (7)
13 Cutting edge (5)
15 Express mirth (5)
17 Melodious (7)
20 Underground cemetery (8)
21 A very small mountain (4)
23 Veteran convict? (3,3)
24 Nervous cricket score (6)

DOWN

1 Indonesian island–"bail" anagram? (4)
2 Comment (6)
3 Sanitariness (7)
4 Successful actions (5)
5 Hound's house (6)
6 Playback singer __ Kapoor (8)
12 Indian mountain range (8)
14 ___ Garden: Boating Park on Nagwara lake (7)
16 Willingly (6)
18 Apple's cellular device (6)
19 Abrasively indelicate (5)
22 Stringed instrument (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS T

XTAO AG WNL LN UX LCQDXE UQDZ LN LSX AWEATAEYQO UYL LN LSX DNOOXDLATX UXSQTANYC NM SYKQWALV.

Linemaro

You know what's on the menu? Me-n-u

Mindchow

Sometimes it takes a good fall to really know where you stand

Joke of the day

Gain a modest reputation for being unreliable and you will never be asked to do a thing

Loop

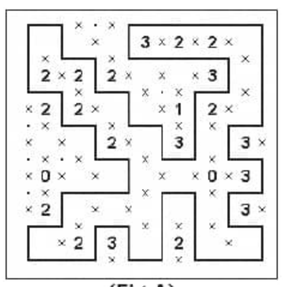
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

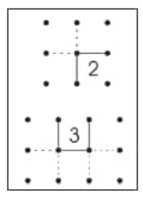
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

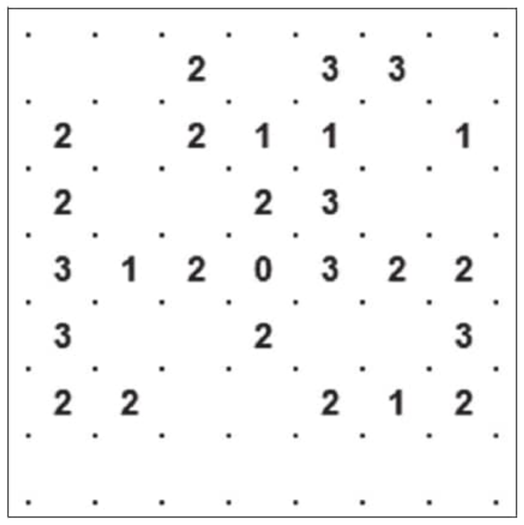
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



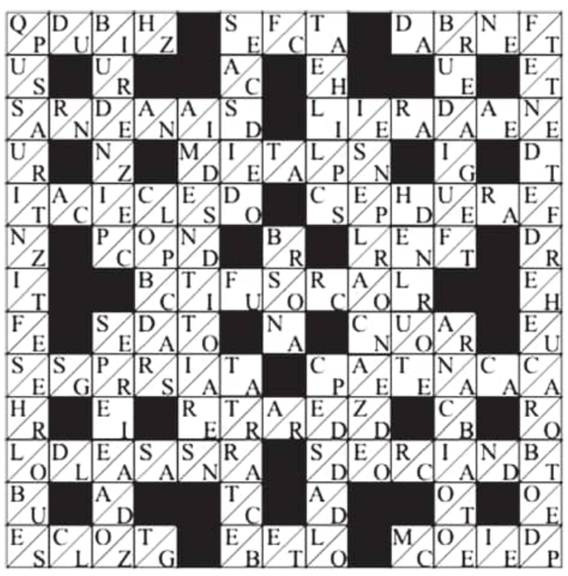
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9 P				

ACROSS

1 Clads; 6 Cameo; 7 I bade; 8 Cider; 9 Spain

DOWN

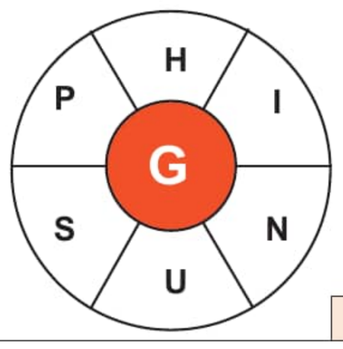
1 Scrap; 2 A I Cob; 3 I mica; 4 Eland; 5 See DD

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the blank and completes the sequence?

S	Z	F
K	T	K
B	R	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5				8		
	4						7	
	6	7	9		3	4	1	
5			7	3	8			2
		3				7		
8			6	5	1			4
	2	6	8		9	5	4	
	8						2	
		9				3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

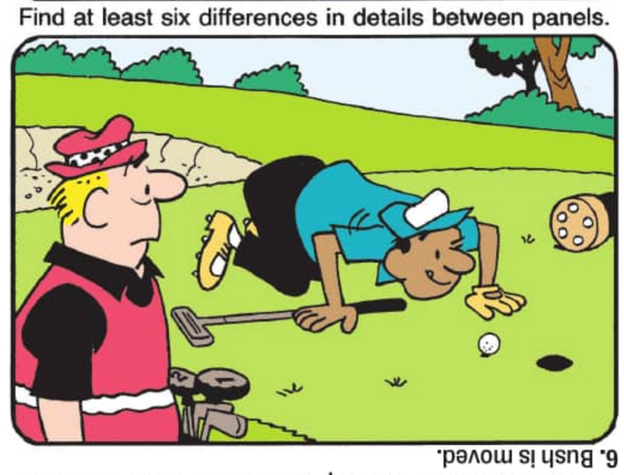
Easy = 24
2 5 8 9

Medium = 32
2 2 4 8

Hard = 7
2 4 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



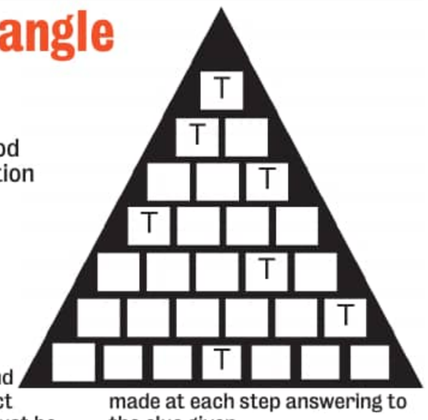
Differences: 1. Club is longer. 2. Stripe on vest is lower. 3. Hole is smaller. 4. Golf cap is different. 5. Foot is moved. 6. Bush is moved.

Riddler

Four legs have I, a sturdy fellow A fuzzy back that isn't yellow But (often) green or (rarely) red A den is where I make my bed My keepers feed me coloured balls With sticks they store on my den walls Sometimes I store them in my pouch Sometimes deep in my belly; ouch! That's when you'll see me acting strange Instead of balls, I'll eat your change And that's my cue to feed again Chalk it up to hunger, friend!

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Infinitive word
3 All the rage
4 Norse thunder god
5 The boreal direction
6 Large wasp
7 One more, next

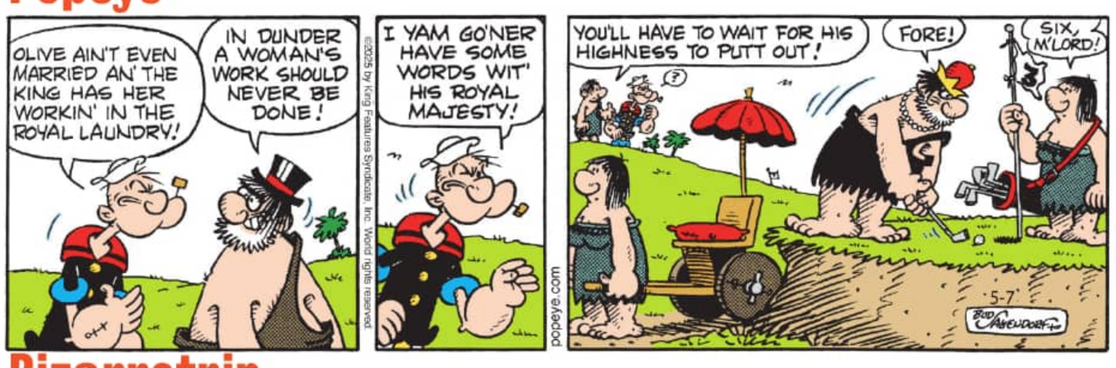


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


OLIVE AIN'T EVEN MARRIED AN' THE KING HAS HER WORKIN' IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY!
IN DUNDER A WOMAN'S WORK SHOULD NEVER BE DONE!
I YAM GO'NER HAVE SOME WORDS WIT' HIS ROYAL MAJESTY!
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIS HIGHNESS TO PUTT OUT!
FORE!
SIX, M'LORD!
5-7
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

I've been at the natural history museum for so long that I developed chronic diorama.
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Diamond Lil

THE JERK AT THE PRODUCE STAND WANTED TO CHARGE ME TWENTY BUCKS!
SO I SAID, "OH, YEAH?! WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR STUPID PUMPKIN!"
AND DID HE?
BY GOLLY, HE DID
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www.creators.com
BarryKeith

Hart of the city

WHAT'S THIS? A LOVE LETTER, PERHAPS? OR A MESSAGE CALLING FOR HELP?
IT'S MONDAY! THE START OF A NEW WEEK. PPPPP MONDAYS ARE SOOO HARD SEND THIS TO SIX HOMIES TO MAKE THEM HAVE A GOOD DAY!!! DON'T BREAK THE CHAIN, OR YOU'LL HAVE A BAD MONDAY!!!
NOOOOOOOOO....
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

THANKS FOR HELPING US GET MONTONI'S ALL DOLLED UP FOR HALLOWEEN!
NO PROBLEM... I'LL COME BACK FOR LUNCH WHEN THINGS AREN'T BUSY.
DON'T YOU EVER WONDER WHO THE PIZZA MONSTER REALLY IS?
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL HE DIES TO FIND OUT?
SORRY... THAT SOUNDED WAY WORSE THAN IT DID IN MY HEAD!
TRY TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOU ONLY THINK THOSE THOUGHTS!
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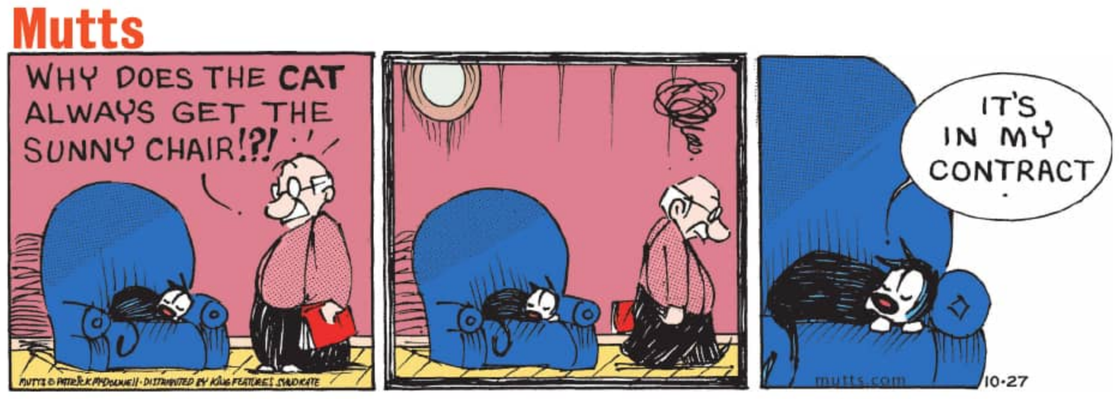
Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Expect a year of significant personal transformation and professional evolution. Your career path takes an exciting turn toward creative independence. In love, a new connection or renewed spark brightens your summer. Family gatherings provide a supportive foundation for your ambitions. Travel for work leads to profitable partnerships. Keep a close eye on budget details to ensure long-term security.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Spend time outdoors today to connect with nature and refresh your spirit. Reaching out to old friends will bring uplifting news that will significantly brighten your mood and your entire soul.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Life flows smoothly for you today, with everything coming to you easily. While your finances are strong, stick to essential spending to maintain your security and enjoy your current prosperity.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

The stars align perfectly today if you are considering a major purchase like a home. Stay confident in your professional abilities, knowing you have truly earned your current position of life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Expect to meet a variety of exciting people today who will add joy to your life. Be discerning with new connections to identify true friends who genuinely value your unique identity.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Take things one step at a time today and trust that your future is unfolding perfectly. Luck is on your side, so avoid over thinking and focus on cherishing your loved ones.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

A lovely romantic gesture may be coming your way today. If you feel overwhelmed, sharing your responsibilities with a trusted partner will lighten your load and strengthen your bond together.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Use any alone time today for personal reflection, as your loved ones support your need for space. A collaborative approach at work will earn you respect and keep everyone very happy.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Listen to your body and take a well-deserved rest today if you feel tired. Speak up at home to resolve any issues, ensuring you receive the respect and care you deserve.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Embrace unexpected changes in your love life with flexibility and a positive heart. Your past good deeds are bringing you great luck today, so enjoy the happiness flowing your way.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Luck is firmly on your side today, potentially making your long-held hopes materialize. Relationships will bring you immense joy, and your natural charm will attract the romantic attention you have.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Focus on your existing commitments and stick to your natural strengths today. Your dedicated efforts will be deeply appreciated by others, so stay grounded and trust in your own remarkable strength.

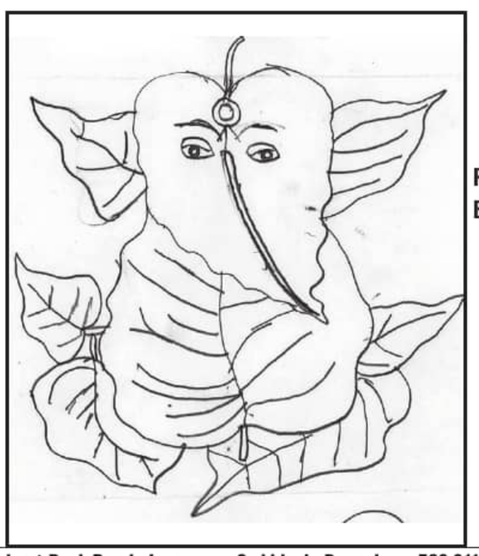
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Keep an open mind toward new ideas to ensure your professional life continues to go smoothly. Address any personal friction with calm communication to maintain harmony with those you love.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Nidhi, Bengaluru



Ritish, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

= (5√4 x (-4) x (-2)) (3√6 x (9/2))
= (5√32 + (3√27)
= 2 + 3 = 5

BULL'S EYE

gnus, gush, hung, nigh, ping, PUSHING, sigh, sign, sing, snug, suing, sung, using

RIDDLER

A billiard or pool table

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	L	D
C	O	M	A	E
A	B	I	D	E
R	I	C	E	D
P	A	I	N	S

STRIKE OUT

Q	U	I	Z		E	F	T	A	B	E	T
U		R		A		E		U		E
A	R	E	N	A	S		L	E	A	D	E	N
R	N		M	E	A	L	S		G		D
T	A	I	L	E	D		S	P	H	E	R	E
Z		C	O	N		B		L	E	T		R
I			B	I	F	O	C	A	L			H
F		S	A	T		A		N	O	R		E
E	S	P	R	I	T		P	A	T	A	C	A
R		E		E	R	R	E	D		B		R
O	D	E	S	S	A		D	E	C	A	N	T
U		D		C		A		T		T		E
S	C	O	T		E	E	L		C	O	E	D

QUICK

		B		R		H		C		K		M
		G	A	I	E	T	Y		O	N	E	M	A	N
		L		M		G		U		N		H		
		M	I	C	A		R		E	S		E	N	D	E	D
		P	A	C	K	I	N	G		B	L	A	D	E
			R				E		L			R		
		L	A	U	G	H		M	U	S	I	C	A	L
		V		L		R		M			P			
C	A	T	A	C	O	M	B		I		H	I	L	L
L		D		U			I		O		U			
L		D	U	L	A	G		N	I	N	E	T	Y	
O	L													E

MENSA PUZZLE

0. Starting bottom left and moving clockwise in a spiral, letters advance by 9 places, then 8, 7, 6, etc.

QUOTE UNCODE

Evil is not to be traced back to the individual but to the collective behaviour of humanity.

SUDOKU

1	3	5	4	2	7	8	9	6
9	4	8	5	1	6	2	7	3
2	6	7	9	8	3	4	1	5
5	9	4	7	3	8	1	6	2
6	1	3	2	9	4	7	5	8
8	7	2	6	5	1	9	3	4
3	2	6	8	7	9	5	4	1
7	8	1	3	4	5	6	2	9
4	5	9	1	6	2	3	8	7

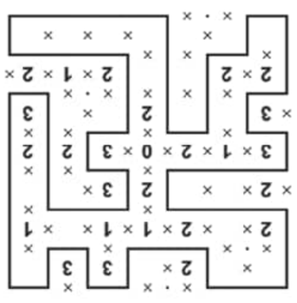
ALPHA TRIANGLE

T, To, Hot, Thor, North, Hornet, Another.

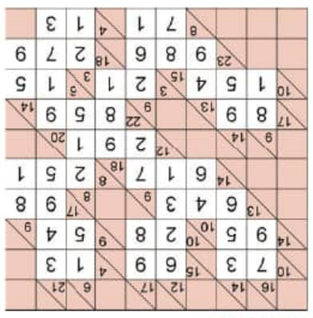
GO FIGURE

Easy
9 + 8 + 5 + 2 = 24
Medium
4 x 8 + 2 - 2 = 32
Hard
2 x 4 - 9 + 8 = 7

LOOP



KAKURO



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